Virtual Reference Desk



Tollfree 877.740.4357 or Email kyvl@mail.state.ky.us

http://www.kyvl.org

<u>Virtual Reference Desk</u>

Browse selected websites

Get help with your research

Clicking on this link from the <u>KYVL</u> home page will take you to the <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u>:

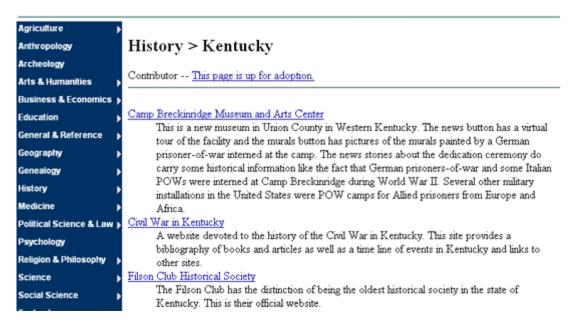


The <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u> provides a collection of links to authoritative, reliable Web sites produced by educational institutions, non-profit agencies, commercial enterprises, and local, state, and federal government agencies. You can find appropriate Web sites for your research by using the blue bar on the left of the screen to navigate the included sites by subject.

History	General
Medicine	African American
Political Science & L	American Primary Sources
Psychology	Kentucky
	Military
Religion & Philosoph	Native American
Science	Women's Studies

By using the mouse to place the arrow over a subject heading, a box listing subheadings will appear.

Clicking on a subheading takes you to a list of Web sites representing some of the best information available on the Web concerning this subheading:



Clicking on a link from a list of Web sites takes you to a site outside of the <u>Kentucky Virtual</u> Library.

The <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u> also provides links to other information and services. Among these are research assistance, writing help, career information, and information on copyright and intellectual property.

Virtual Reference Desk: How does the Kentucky Virtual Library choose the Web sites that are included in the Virtual Reference Desk?



The blue sidebar contains a link to information on how we select the Web sites included in the <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u>.

A Web site will be added to the Virtual Reference Desk if:

It has been used to answer a question received at the <u>KYVL</u> help desk more than once OR

It supports research on the Commonwealth of Kentucky

OR

It supports the information needs of the people of Kentucky AND

It is evaluated as a quality Web site.

Quality Web sites are judged according to the following criteria:

Authority:

Are the author's position, training, and/or experience appropriate to the topic of the document? Is the research traceable?

Objectivity:

Is the scope and purpose of the document clearly stated?

Reliability:

Is the information accurate?

Is the Web site stable? Does it have a stable URL or a PURL? Has it been available for a reasonable period of time? Are you able to connect to it each time you attempt to go there?

Timeliness:

Does the Web site indicate the date it was last updated?

Coverage:

Does the document cover a topic that adds to the breadth and balance of information in the Virtual Reference Desk?

If the topic of the document is covered by other site included in the Virtual Reference Desk, does the site being considered cover it better?

Organization and Design:

Is the Web site design is clean and easy to use? Are there lots of flashing ads? Is it easy to find the information you need on the page?

The Web sites that are included in the <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u> are evaluated by Kentucky librarians who volunteer to evaluate sites for a specific subject area. To see the list of volunteers, go to http://www.kyvl.org/html/ref/refabout.shtml.

Recommend a Website

If you know of a site that you think should be included in the <u>Virtual Reference Desk</u>, you can use another link in the blue sidebar to access a form where you can submit the site for consideration. You can also contact the subject contributors directly.